

Aquinnah Select Board Meeting
Minutes
01/10/2024

Attending: Tom Murphy (Chair), Gary Haley, Julianne Vanderhoop, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator), Kate Taylor, Paul Manning, Jay MacLoed, Megan Gombos, Jim Wallen, Kathy Newman

Call to Order at 5:00 p.m. by Tom Murphy, Chairman

Minutes
(Accepted minutes of November 8, 2023)

Climate Action Committee
(Accepted report of Liz Durkee and Megan Gombos)

Liz Durkee made a presentation to the Board concerning the Municipal Vulnerability Grant that contains Updated eelgrass studies in Lake Tashmoo, Lagoon Pond and Sengekontacket Pond. These studies in conjunction with the MV Shellfish Group and Great Pond Foundation would identify potential future aquaculture sites. Informed the Board of MVC DRI Policies for flood risk areas.

She further informed Board of development of transportation, infrastructure and waste policies. The MVC has hired a Energy Planner who has established a relationship with Ever Source to further grid modernization and resilience. They have received a National Renewable energy Labs grant to find strategies to improve down-island water departments' resilience during prolonged power outages while educating citizens on getting to net zero energy use.

Megan Gombos presented information on the second phase of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program that would build off of original MVP workshops and reports by requesting broader community engagement. There will be a required update of plans that are over 5 years old. MVC is working with Town Climate Committee to review the process and approach. They are preparing a proposal for NOAA Regional Resilience Grant that has the potential for \$600K to study and improve Vineyard Haven Harbor, State Beach Road (OB to Edgartown) and Menemsha Harbor/village. Jeff asked that when studying Menemsha the vulnerability of Boathouse Road revetment be included as a concern because it provides access to the Coast Guard boathouse that is necessary for emergency response.

Tom thanked both Liz and Megan for their work on behalf of our community.

Madison-Lake discussion
(Postponed)

Building Permit Fee Waivers
(Approved fees of \$1,000.00 for Kate Taylor and Jim Wallen)

Building Inspector submitted letters concerning applications by Jim Wallen on behalf of the Smith Wallen Revocable Trust and Kate Taylor seeking waivers from building permit fees. Both

applicants' fee waivers were approved unanimously by the Board. During the discussion it was pointed out that the Wallen application was for a separate dwelling unit that would be rented not as affordable year-round but rather on a seasonal basis. It was also pointed out by the TA that the Building Inspector and Wallen had not come to an agreement on the value of the improvements on which to base the cost of a building permit. The Board did not consider either of these points or entertain discussion on the merits of the information. They considered the motion to approve the permit fee waivers as proposed by Julie and seconded by Gary. As previously stated, the both motions were approved a fees for each permit set at One Thousand Dollars.

Tom Murphy thanked Kate Taylor for her outstanding contributions to the community over the years. He also thanked Jim Wallen for his many years of community service.

“Jaws” Event Proposal
(Requested In-Person Presentation from Applicant)

Town Administrator was asked to describe the proposed event. Following his explanation Tom Murphy read excerpts from email received by Town Clerk from Michael Cochrane in which Mr. Cochrane mentioned his intent to [retain] the Boston Pops [orchestra] and utilizing the Homestead property as a VIP section.

Following the brief discussion the Board requested that Mr. Cochrane be contacted and requested to provide a in-person presentation of his plan.

Martha’s Vineyard Commission Appointment
(Appointed Kathy Newman)

Tom Murphy read an email from Kathy Newman wherein she volunteered to serve another one-year term as Select Board representative to the MVC. Julie made a motion to appoint Kathy Newman. Gary seconded the motion. The motion was approved without discussion.

Tom Murphy thanked Kathy Newman for her willingness to continue to serve our Town.

Affordable Home Act/Municipal Employee Workforce Housing
(Voted to submit an amended letter of support)

Following a brief discussion by Laura Silber, from the MVC, the Board unanimously voted to send a letter of support of Governor Healy’s proposed Housing legislation. They approved an amended template proposed by the TA of letter suggested by Ms. Silber. The amended template expressed support for that section of governor Healy’s that called for Accessory Dwelling Units on building lots as of right.

Library Job Descriptions
(Approved amended job descriptions submitted by Library Trustees)

Rosa Parker, Head Librarian, submitted amended job descriptions for three library positions. The proposed job descriptions were previously reviewed and approved by the Personnel Committee. Following discussion of the reason for notes at the bottom of each page of the description Julie moved and Gary seconded a motion to approve the proposed job descriptions as submitted. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

Animal Control Officer

(No action taken)

Town Administrator reminded the Board that the Town is still without an animal control officer (ACO). They were reminded that the position is required by the State and that the person must receive training. There was discussion of sharing the position with another Town. They were reminded that we previously discussed sharing with Chilmark (not possible), Edgartown (didn't work out) and West Tisbury (not possible). TA informed the Board that it was necessary to develop a budget for the position that includes kennel facilities. An annual salary of \$20K was discussed. Julie suggested putting figures in a hat and randomly drawing a number as a means deciding on a budget. Board requested that TA report back to them on other town budget for ACO. No other action was taken.

Smalley Knoll Conservation Restriction

(Authorized chairman to sign deed)

Following short discussion Board voted to authorize Chairman Murphy to sign the deed that conveyed a conservation restriction on the rear portion of 939 State Road.

Cemetery matter

(Voted to request letter be sent to Cemetery Commission)

TA informed Board of several incidents related to recent burials at the Cemetery. Board was informed that there were no records relating to Cemetery in Town records. Board suggested a letter requesting that records be provided to Town Clerk.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.